



Region I

Applicant: Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA)

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Regional Highlights:

Region I comprises seven counties in Southeast Michigan, which together contains almost 50% of the State's total population and includes Detroit – the largest city in Michigan. Many of the planned activities are related to the federal virtual WIRED grant that was awarded to the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Laborshed Mapping

Region I will create a comprehensive Laborshed map of the region that can be used for regional analysis and planning and as a tool for identifying labor resources in a particular location. Existing data from a variety of sources will also be used in order to utilize GIS mapping techniques. The Laborshed mapping process will result in a product that can be universally utilized to identify both need and opportunity to further economic development efforts.

SEMCOG

Current plans are for Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) to build this comprehensive database. (SEMCOG is the official federal Repository of Census data for the region.) Types of data to be collected are LMI, workforce, transportation, housing, post-secondary education and other relevant information from economic development partners that will populate the Laborshed information base. This mapping feature will allow any user to request a visual analysis of related data to inform and/or support a plan or project. It will also assist with determining appropriate training curriculums to support existing and anticipated economic growth. Initial partners will include the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), county economic development officials, local economic officials and training providers. Other local, public and private agencies that will be asked to provide input include United Way, Focus Hope, the Detroit Regional Chamber, and the American Society of Employers.

The final product will be used as a planning and development resource and combined with existing strategic initiatives. The regional partnership will then focus on three or four strategic initiatives to support the Compact for the 21 Century Workforce, with an emphasis on education models that will provide people with the skills required to meet the projected needs in the region. Emphasis will be on non-traditional education that enhances skill specific job growth and builds careers through career ladders that are attainable by everyone.

Partners will convene on a regular basis, at least monthly, to oversee the process.